

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 24, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 17, 18, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant amended claim 16 to include all the limitations of previous claim 17 and has cancelled claim 17 herein. Claim 18 is amended to depend from claim 16 rather than cancelled claim 17. Claim 19 (and claim 20) is amended to clarify that "selecting at least one match and/or at least one mis-match" occurs after an additional step to those recited in claim 16, such additional step causing the creation of matches and mismatches. Claim 20 is amended to remove an inadvertent comma. Claims 16, 18-20 contain at least all the limitations of previous claims 16 and 17 and, thus, are in condition of allowance.

Rejected claims 11, 12, 14, 21 and 27 have been cancelled by this amendment. The claims are cancelled to expedite the issuance of the allowed claims. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

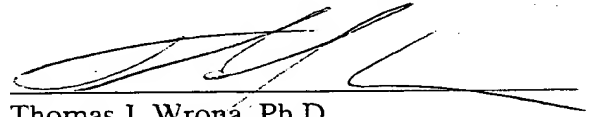
CONCLUSION

All currently pending claims are allowed or are in condition of allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any issues of form or substance in order to expedite allowance of the pending application, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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